



State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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(603) 271-3406 FAX (603) 271-7894



Ms. Constance Koons  
Historic Harrisville Inc.  
P.O. Box 79  
Harrisville, NH 03450

May 23, 2002  
Letter of Deficiency  
DAM #109.14

RE: Cheshire Mills Forebay Dam, Harrisville

Dear Ms. Koons:

The Department of Environmental Services, Dam Bureau (DES) consistently strives to enhance the safety of dams in New Hampshire through its dam safety program. One of the many instruments that plays a part in reaching this goal is our inspection program. DES is forwarding this correspondence to you to advise you that in accordance with RSA 482:12 and Env-Wr 502.02, an inspection of the subject dam was conducted on October 11, 2001. During this visual inspection and/or file review, the following deficiencies were observed:

1. There was no operational procedure plan (O&M) on file with the DES;
2. There was no Emergency Action Plan (EAP) on file for this dam;
3. The walkway for access to the low-level outlet was deteriorated to the point of being a safety hazard when accessing the outlet works;
4. The wood stoplogs were deteriorated to the point of needing replacement;
5. There was small tree growth in the following locations:
  - a. Along the right downstream cutoff wall;
  - b. At the left abutment of the overflow spillway;
  - c. Downstream right side of the overflow spillway;
6. The following issues have not been addressed on the outstanding Letter of Deficiency (LOD), dated August 28, 1997:
  - a. It does not appear that a seepage monitoring devise has been installed in the historic seepage locations;
  - b. The O&M plan was not submitted as requested.

DES believes that the above deficiencies can be corrected by performing the following items by the indicated schedule:

**September 1, 2002:**

1. Install the seepage monitoring devise as requested in the previous LOD. Contact our office for assistance with the installation design;

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2. Prepare and submit to the DES a written O&M plan. The plan should describe the control of impoundment levels, monitoring and maintenance procedures, and identify emergency contact personnel. Refer to the enclosed guidelines;
3. Complete the EAP. Any correspondence having to do with the EAP should be addressed to Bethann McCarthy, P.E. the Department of Environmental Services (DES), Dam Bureau EAP Coordinator;
4. Remove the tree in the areas listed above and within ten feet of any portion of the dam.
5. Repair the walkway to the low-level outlet for safe access to the outlet; and
6. If the stoplogs are to remain in place they should be replaced to help retain the pond elevation at an acceptable elevation.

Due to the time that has lapsed as well as additional deficiencies observed as a result of the October 11, 2001 inspection, DES will be officially closing out the 1997 LOD. Enclosed is a copy for your reference. It is our hope that the additional deficiencies as well as the outstanding deficiencies will be addressed within the schedule indicated above.

DES is requesting that you complete and submit the attached "Intent to Complete Repairs" form, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, that will provide for correction of the identified deficiencies by the date(s) indicated above. If you believe changes to the items of work or dates are necessary, please make the changes directly on the form and provide a brief explanation. We have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope for you to return this form.

Our intent in sending you this correspondence is to make you aware of items that DES believes warrant your attention to insure the continued safe operation of your dam. It is our hope that, through the submittal of the attached form and a commitment to keeping a well-maintained dam, you will voluntarily comply with the requested items of work. If we do not receive the intent form or a similarly adequate written reply, we will assume that you are in agreement with our findings and recommendations and DES will carry out follow-up inspections accordingly.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Letter of Deficiency or would like to be present at future inspections, please contact me at 271-3406, or write to the Water Division at the address listed on the top of the previous page.

Sincerely,  
  
Dale F. Guinn, P.E.  
Dam Safety Engineer

Attachments Guideline for an O&M plan, DB8, DB13, Copy of the 1997 LOD

cc: Gretchen Rule

Town of Harrisville

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